

### IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (new): A wound dressing comprising a web of gel-forming fibers or fibers soluble in wound exudates, attached to a reinforcing layer wherein the density of the web is in the range of 5-60 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 12 (new): A wound dressing according to claim 11 wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of polysaccharide or polyacrylate fibers, preferably alginate, chitosan, alginate containing CMC, or CMC fibers or derivatives or mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (new): A wound dressing according to claim 11 wherein the web is attached to the reinforcing layer by needling.

Claim 14 (new): A wound dressing according to claim 11 wherein the web is attached to the reinforcing layer by thermal bonding.

Claim 15 (new): A wound dressing according to claim 11 wherein the web is attached to the reinforcing layer by adhesive means.

Claim 16 (new): A wound dressing according to claim 11 wherein the reinforcing layer is in the form of a net, a foam, a film, a non-woven or woven material.

Claim 17 (new): A wound dressing according to claim 11 wherein the dressing comprises one or more active ingredients.

Claim 18 (new): A wound dressing according to claim 17 wherein the active ingredient comprises an antibacterial agent.

Claim 19 (new): A wound dressing according to claim 17 wherein the active ingredient comprises a pain-relieving agent.

Claim 20 (new): A wound dressing according to claim 11 wherein the dressing comprises Ag-Ca-alginate and/or Ag-Na-CMC.